

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-15 remain in the application for further prosecution. Claims 2, 5, 8, 12, and 15 have been amended.

§ 112 Rejection

Claims 2, 5, 8, 12 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 2, 5, 8, 12, and 15 have been amended to more clearly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Specifically, the term "dielectric rod portion" has replaced the term "dielectric rod" in these claims.

§ 102 Rejection

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,109,232 to Monte ("Monte"). Monte discloses a dielectric rod 16 and a dual band junction 14. The dual band junction 14 includes a channel 46 which "extends from the rod 16 in a gradual fashion with a linear taper having a half angle of approximately 16°." Col. 6, ll. 17-20.

Independent claims 1, 6, and 11 all define a horn portion having an interior surface defining an exponential taper. As illustrated above, the channel 46 of Monte defines a linear taper and not an exponential taper. Thus, claims 1, 6, and 11 are all believed to be allowable over Monte.

The remaining claims, claims 2-5, 7-10, and 12-15 are dependent on claims 1, 6, and 11, respectively, and thus are also believed to be allowable over Monte.

Claims 1, 4-11, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 936,400 ("DE '400"). A copy of an English translation of DE '400 is enclosed. DE '400

discloses a horn radiator 1 and a dielectric rod antenna 2. The horn radiator 1 does not extend in an exponential taper. In fact, the reference distinguishes itself from horns having an exponential taper, stating that "[t]he arrangement in accordance with the present invention distinguishes itself from the known exponential line...". Page 2, ln. 1. Independent claims 1, 6, and 11 all disclose an interior surface portion defining an exponential taper and an elongated dielectric rod portion having an elongated tapered end part. DE '400 does not disclose using an exponential horn radiator with a dielectric rod which tapers towards an end aperture of the horn portion, and, thus, does not anticipate claims 1, 6, and 11.

Claims 4, 5, 7-10, and 14-15 are all dependent on the independent claims, and are therefore also believed to be allowable.

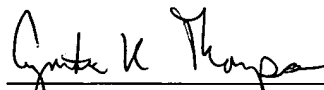
Conclusion

It is the Applicant's belief that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance and action towards that effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

Respectfully submitted,

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